

May 5, 2023

## Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

"Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." - Malala Yousafzai. Thank you to the entire staff at Wicoff for everything they do for our children—the future citizens of the world. Thank you to the parents who contributed towards making a fun week of staff appreciation.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Founder's Day Parade: May 6 - Plainsboro Municipal Grounds:** Wicoff School will join the Founder's Day Parade May 6. (Rain date: May 7). The parade will start at 12:30 p.m. and there will be many fun family activities. To participate in the parade, please meet the Wicoff group at Edgemere Avenue and walk along with your Wicoff friends under the school banner. Click [here](#) for details of the event.
- **Family Paint Night: May 11 at 6 p.m.: \*\*Registration closes May 8\*\*:** We are excited to bring Family Paint Night back to in-person on the evening of May 11 at 6 p.m. in the Wicoff Gym. Our awesome art teacher, Ms. Setneska, will be leading the evening full of fun and creativity. Registration forms are available [here](#) and were sent home in your child's folder.
  - **Registration closes May 8**
  - Check-in on May 11: 5:45 p.m.
  - Advance registration required
  - Open to full family
  - Each package includes 1 canvas, paints and brushes: \$10
  - Additional canvas: \$5
  - All payments must be made through a check payable to "Wicoff PTA" or exact cash. Please put the form and payment in an envelope marked "Family Paint Night" and hand it to the class teacher.
- **PTA Board Nominations: May 15:** A majority of our Board is graduating with their 3rd graders this year and we are looking to **fill four (4) positions for the new school year**. These positions must be filled by May 15. Announcements will be made at our last PTA General Meeting of the year on June 6. The PTA general body will vote to approve the nominations. The PTA is an integral part of our school and is run entirely by parent volunteers. At first glance, it may seem like it's going to be a lot of work, but anyone who has ever served on a PTA committee or the Board will attest to the feeling of joy and satisfaction that is more overwhelming than the time committed to an event. Don't be afraid to ask

any of us about our experience and we promise to be completely frank and candid. In addition to the pride that your child will feel when they see you volunteering at events, you will have an opportunity to build a unique bond with fellow volunteers and get an insight into the world of teachers and administrators running the school. Some of the most popular events hosted by our PTA are: Staff Welcome Back to School Breakfast, Staff Appreciation Week, PTA Reflections, Stage a Story, Bingo Night, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, Shake a Leg, Entertainment Night, Pro-Skate Ice skating, 3rd Grade Carnival and 3rd grade yearbooks. Join our team and help us continue these awesome traditions!

- **Field Day 2023: May 18 and 19: Parent Volunteers NEEDED**

- Wicoff Elementary School's Field Days are right around the corner, so mark your calendars!
- Thursday, May 18: 2nd & 3rd Grade Field Day
- Friday, May 19: Kindergarten & 1st Grade Field Day
- We need parent volunteers to help monitor water stations AND especially to help supervise classes during lunch, as teachers take their lunch break. We are also looking for parent volunteers to donate a snack (individually packaged mini goldfish crackers) for each class. For more information and to sign up, please click on the link below. Any questions, email [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).
- SIGN UP LINK:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AADA922A2FA7-wicoff2>

- **3rd Grade Carnival: June 2 - PLANNING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

- SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, June 2, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Rain date June 7)
- Join in the fun by helping our 3rd graders celebrate the end of their time at Wicoff at the 3rd Grade Carnival! As our 3rd graders get ready to "Splash into Millstone", we are planning to have a fun day in store for them, consisting of inflatables, water games and more!
- We need 3rd grade parents to help plan for this wonderful event. If you would like to join the planning committee, who will meet several times before the event to organize the festivities, please email [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).
- Thanks for your support! A separate signup will be sent as the date nears, so we have parents to volunteer to run the different stations that the committee will plan.

- **End of year picnic: June 9:** Let's celebrate the end of another amazing year at school with a fun family social event. Save the date. More details coming soon!

- If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas, please contact us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).

- Please 'Like' us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wicoffpta) for updates, reminders, etc. or visit us at [www.wicoffpta.org](http://www.wicoffpta.org) for further information

## Important Information:

- **Online registration** to become a PTA Member is available. This is how we fund great events for school every year. Please join:  
<https://wicoff.memberhub.com/store>
- **Spirit Wear:** Wicoff merchandise is available in a variety of sizes. A new order of merchandise has arrived! Please order either via [the form](#) or online at <https://www.unified-spectrum.com/wwp-wicoff-school> or email us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).
- All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.
- If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas, please contact us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com). Please 'Like' us on [Facebook](#) for updates, reminders, etc. or visit us at [www.wicoffpta.org](http://www.wicoffpta.org) for further information.

## Ways to support the PTA:

- **Support by Donating:** You can also support the organization by making monetary contributions to support various programs. Click [here](#) to donate.
- **Box Tops:** Download the Box Tops App on your phone, add Wicoff school and scan your receipts.

**Useful PTA Links:** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Wicoff's Twitter](#)

## SEPTSA

- **SEPTSA Membership:** Our PTSA exists to support students and families of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Please join SEPTSA to be added to our mailing list and to hear about upcoming events and speakers! Membership is available to all parents and families, older students (6th grade and above), and faculty and staff who support students with special needs. For clarification, registering with your child's school PTA/PTSA or having your child classified or "registered" with Special Services is not the same as registering for SEPTSA membership. There are volunteer opportunities for our members ranging from just one hour total to one hour per month. Go to [www.wwp-septsa.org](http://www.wwp-septsa.org) for more information about SEPTSA and/or contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) if you're interested in sharing your time and skills with SEPTSA.
- **WhatsApp for Special Ed Families:** Join us on WhatsApp to connect with other WW-P families of special education students. [Connect with WWP special ed parents](#)

Links: [SEPTSA Facebook Page](#) | [SEPTSA Website](#)

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## SCHOOL

- **Staff Appreciation:** A **BIG THANK YOU** to the PTA and the Wicoff families for an extra special Staff Appreciation Week. You spoiled us with treats each morning and a catered luncheon on Friday from Romeo's. Everything was delicious and we cannot THANK YOU enough for ALL that you do for the staff!!!!
- **Summer Programming:** As the summer season approaches, it's a great opportunity for your children to engage in summer programs and camps that will help them to develop important social skills. While the pandemic has caused disruptions to our daily lives, it's more important than ever to help our children to connect with others outside of their immediate families. Participating in summer camps and programs offers children the chance to interact with peers in a safe and controlled environment. These experiences help children to learn how to communicate with others, make new friends, and develop the social skills that are essential for their future success. We understand that it may be challenging to consider signing your children up for camps or summer programs, especially with lingering concerns about the pandemic. However, many camps and programs have implemented safety protocols to ensure that children can participate in activities in a safe and enjoyable way. We strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your children in summer programs and camps this year. Not only will your children benefit from developing their social skills, but they will also have the opportunity to create lasting memories and experiences.
  - **Some local offerings:**
    - [Community Education Summer Programs](#)
    - [Plainsboro Recreation Department Summer Programs](#)
    - [Plainsboro Public Library Children's Programs](#)
- **Snacks:** Please remember to pack a healthy snack each and every day for your child. Although we do have some extra snacks in the nurse's office for emergencies, students should not be going to the nurse's office daily for a snack/water. **It is also important that every student brings a refillable water bottle each day.** We have filling stations throughout the building. Please remember that the water bottle should be labeled with your child's name. We appreciate your support in being sure your child has a snack/water each day!
- **Bus Safety:** Please periodically review the bus rules ([Bus Safety Pledge](#)) with your child(ren) so they can have a safe and enjoyable bus ride to and from school.
- **Label ALL Student Personal Belongings:** Please be sure to label ALL of your child(ren)'s personal belongings. This will help ensure that personal belongings left behind in the classroom, on the buses or in the dining room will be returned to the owner. Please include name, grade, and teacher.
- **Construction Safety:** Please be aware that construction continues in the rear of the school building. Construction vehicles will be entering and exiting the school

driveway located off of Plainsboro Road. Please drive carefully when on the school property!

- **Student Drop Off and Pickup:** When dropping off your child(ren), please park your car in the church parking lot and walk your child to the front doors (#1). Doors open at 8:40 a.m. Any student who arrives after 8:55 a.m. will need a late pass. When picking up your child(ren), please park in the church parking lot and meet your child(ren) outside of the gym doors (#14). Pick up begins at 3:10 p.m.
- **Genesis/Student Information System:** Our student information system, [Genesis](#), is filled with important information including attendance, grades/report cards, student emergency information, student schedules, bus routes, etc. Please familiarize yourself with our student information system.

### Upcoming Events:

- **May 10** - National School Nurse Day - THANK YOU Mrs. Healey for ALL you do for the students, parents and staff!!!!
  - **May 12** - School Spirit Day - Inside Out Day - Wears Your Clothes Inside Out -
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## DISTRICT

Links: [WW-P Website](#) | [Academic Calendars](#) | [Events Calendar](#)

### Reminders

- **WW-P Schools Closed Friday, May 26, and Monday, May 29, 2023:** Due to the unused emergency closing day, all WW-P schools will be closed Friday, May 26. Schools will also be closed Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day. Schools will reopen Tuesday, May 30, 2023. District board offices will be closed Monday, May 29.
  - To view the 2022-23 school year calendar, please click [here](#).
- **Full-Day Kindergarten Beginning with the 2023-24 School Year:** Starting with the 2023-24 school year, WW-P will transition to a full-day kindergarten program for all District kindergarten students. For more information regarding this change, please [click here](#).
  - **Kindergarten registration** for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Parents/guardians must complete the online application for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please click [here](#).
- **2023-2024 School Year Calendar Revised:** Please click [here](#) to view the revised 2023-2024 school year calendar that was approved at the March 28, 2023 Board of Education meeting. The calendar was originally approved Feb. 8, 2022.

- **Title 1 Information:** Title 1 is a federal program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The following WW-P schools receive Title 1 funding: Maurice Hawk Elementary School, Town Center Elementary School, Millstone River School, Village School, Wicoff Elementary School and High School South. Parent information about Title 1 in our schools can be found on our [District website](#).
- **Early Dismissal Requests for Students:** Parents/guardians notifying school attendance office/school secretary of a student early dismissal can be done via TeleSafe, a note in the "Daily Attendance" tab in Genesis Parent Portal or by emailing/sending a note to your school's attendance secretary.
- **Staff Email Addresses:** Staff email addresses use the following pattern [firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org](#) (e.g., Jim Smith is [jim.smith@wwprsd.org](#)).
- **Contact Information:** Is your contact information up-to-date in Genesis? If your email or phone numbers have changed, please make sure to update your information in Genesis.
  - **Interested in receiving SMS text notifications from the District?:** If you would like to opt-in to receive SMS text messages from the District, please text "Yes" to "67587" from a cellphone that is listed in your contact information in Genesis. The cell phone must be listed in Genesis as a cell phone (not as a home phone number). Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **WW-P Mobile Application:** The WW-P app is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, it features convenient links and information all in one place. Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching "WW-P Schools" in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.
- **Masks:** WW-P schools and district offices are masking optional but masking is recommended. The District reserves the right to update/revoke masking protocols due to events such as outbreaks in classroom/ school/ building, growing cases in our community, etc. Masking is also optional but recommended on all passenger buses.
- **Reporting COVID positive or COVID symptomatic:** For the 2022-23 school year, parents/guardians should report their student's COVID positive absence or report their student as COVID symptomatic in Genesis or via Tel-safe and email their school nurse for further instructions. There is NO Health Screening Form in Genesis for the 2022-23 school year. There is no virtual instruction for COVID-related exclusions. Please view the 2022-23 COVID guidance [here](#).
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) to apply.
- **Around the District News:**
  - **HSS PTSA** fundraisers available districtwide:
    - It's the **Happy Birthday Lawn Sign!** Celebrate your birthday and help support HSS Student Celebrations! For more information and

to reserve your date, click [here](#). Email Angela at [Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org](mailto:Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org) with any questions.

- **HSN PTSA** fundraisers available districtwide. Support HSN Class of 2023 Senior Celebrations:

- **[Birthday cakes delivered to your home](#)**: Delicious Nothing Bundt Cake birthday cakes can be ordered throughout the school year with complimentary home delivery. Many packages are available.

## Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold will be sent monthly.
  - The next update will be sent May 19, 2023.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's COVID Guidance Chart. Click [here](#) for the District's Illness Exclusion Information.
- Please note that for the safety of our school community, it is important that if your child is isolating or quarantining due to a COVID positive diagnosis, exposure or symptoms that they may not attend school or school events until their [quarantine/isolation period](#) has officially ended.

## Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University Events**
  - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

## Community Education

- **Summer Programs Are Here!**: Community Education will be hosting summer programs at Community Middle School beginning Monday, June 26 through Friday, August 11!
  - Half-day, full-day and extended day options available.
  - Programs are offered on a weekly basis only.
  - [Check out all of the offerings here!](#)
  - Camp Invention is offering an early registration discount! The discount coupon expires May 17, 2023. More information on Camp Invention and how to register can be found [here](#).
  - Classes fill fast, so register early! Vendors begin canceling under enrolled classes two to three weeks before the actual start.
- **Registration Information**: Community Education uses Community Pass for all program registrations. Payment is due at the time of registration. [To access Community Pass, click here](#).

## Food Services

- **Sodexo at WW-P is hiring.** Apply today! Now offering a \$200 sign-on bonus. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Check out the **Sodexo menus** and newsletter by [clicking here](#).
- PaySchools Central is the food service online system, click [here](#) for directions for creating an account and adding funds to the account.
  - Need to set limits and/or restrict food purchases for your student account? [Click here](#) for a "How to" guide.
- The **application for free and reduced price school meals**, which also opens up other food benefits for families, is available for completion for the 2022-23 school year in your [PaySchools Central](#) account or may be downloaded from the [District website](#).

## Technology

- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades kindergarten through grade 3 are kept in the classroom.
- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades 4-12 are for students to use both in school and to take home.
  - Students should bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school with them each day.
  - Charging cords should remain at home.
  - Middle school families: The Chromebook cover from last year's device should be used on this year's device. If you do not have a cover from last year, please follow the process at your school to submit tech ticket so that we can provide a cover.

## District Communication

- WW-P uses **SchoolMessenger** as our [district communication tool](#). It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis.
- The WW-P mobile application is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, the app features convenient links and information all in one place (e.g., events calendar, District notifications, news, and more). Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching "WW-P Schools" in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.

## Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

- WW-P SEPAG's mission is to facilitate communication between students, parents, staff, the Board of Education, and the community, about issues surrounding the district's special education programs and to advise the Board of Education and administration on matters about improving the quality of special education district-wide.

- WW-P SEPAG is a state-mandated group for parents, educators, and individuals concerned about children with special needs and/or learning difficulties in the WW-P School District.
- If you are interested in joining our mailing list, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/ujE5PRyK5khchL7j9>.

## Community Events

- **Save the Date:** West Windsor Human Relations Council will host "**Tea and Conversation**" **Sunday, May 21, 2023**, from 2-4 p.m. at Grover Middle School
  - **Volunteers** are needed to serve a tea reflecting one's heritage to celebrate West Windsor's diverse community
  - **Performers** of all ages are also needed to share music, dance, and other talents at the open mic opportunity.
  - To volunteer or find out more, contact Jyotima Prasad, chairperson, at [jyotima@gmail.com](mailto:jyotima@gmail.com).
- The West Windsor Health Department and the Mercer County Health Department have **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the coming months. Details and registration information can be found [here](#). Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for upcoming events and activities from community groups and organizations.

## WW-P Board of Education

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board Meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.
- Board of Education meetings are held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings are also live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#).

**Follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.**

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)